

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following new paragraph after the Title and before the first paragraph on page 1:

This application is a U.S. national phase application of PCT international application PCT/JP2004/011632.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The intrinsic task of a speaker grille is to protect a speaker from damage, so it has to have a certain mechanical strength. Therefore, there is a limitation to making ~~the size of the open rate~~ of sound opening larger. The speaker grille as shown in FIG. 27 secures a certain open rate by providing rectangular sound openings in the area opposing to diaphragm edge, in addition to the area opposing to the central part of diaphragm. This configuration, however, requires a certain thickness for ensuring a required mechanical strength. This means that it is not suitable for use with the small-size speakers, among other types of speakers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A speaker grille in the present invention is disposed in front of a diaphragm speaker which reproduces the sounds of 1 kHz and higher. The speaker grille is provided with a sound opening which includes a line which opposes to a region from the edge portion of a speaker diaphragm to the fixing portion on the outer circumference of the diaphragm. The speaker grille provides superior sound characteristics, at the same time a sufficient mechanical strength either.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Speaker grille 3 is provided with sound openings 2, which is divided by reinforcement rib 5 disposed for ensuring a certain mechanical strength over the entire speaker grille 3. Each of sound openings 2 includes line 8 that is opposing to a region from edge portion 4A of diaphragm 6 to fixing portion 4 on the outer circumference of diaphragm 6. Each sound opening 2 has arc-curved portion 9 that is in parallel with fixing portion 4 on the outer circumference of diaphragm 6. By forming sound openings 2 in the above-described manner so that they include arc-curved portions 9 proceeding along fixing portion 4 on the outer circumference, sound openings 2 are provided so that it contains, to the maximum extent, the area opposing to edge portion 4A. In the example shown in FIG. 1A, outer curved portion 8-9 is shown in coincidence with fixing portion 4; so, the line opposing to a region from edge portion 4A to fixing portion 4 on the outer circumference of diaphragm 6 can be explicitly recognized as line 8. However, the perforated area of sound opening 2 may include such line which we sometimes fail to explicitly recognize.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 21 and FIG. 22, respectively, show other exemplary variations of speaker grille 3; they are provided with a plurality of reinforcement ribs 5 disposed in parallel with the shorter sides of vibration plane for further splitting the two sound openings, further to the configuration shown in FIG. 20. Namely, rib 5B is formed laterally with an approximate width of 6 mm expanding equally from the central line towards up and down. In addition, sound openings 2 having an approximate width of 14 mm and ribs 5 having an approximate width of 2 mm are alternately disposed in the right-left direction with equal orientation from the central line for as long as approximately 50 mm in the lateral length and the sets of the openings and ribs are disposed in a longitudinal direction, in FIG. 21. In FIG. 22, ~~with equal orientation from the central line in the lateral direction~~, sound openings 2 having an approximate width of 4 mm and ribs 5 having an approximate width of 4 mm are disposed alternately with equal orientation from the central line in the lateral direction. The open rate in FIG. 20, FIG. 21 and FIG. 22 are 48 %,

28 % and 22 %, respectively. Sound characteristics of these speaker grilles 3 connected with speaker 1 of FIG. 13 are shown in the respective charts shown in FIG. 23, FIG. 24 and FIG. 25. In each of the charts, solid line curve 31 represents the characteristics without a speaker ~~net grille~~, while dotted line curves 33, 34 and 35 exhibit those with a speaker net.